



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION  
CITY VIEW PLAZA, SUITE 7000  
#48 165 RD. KM 1.2  
GUAYNABO, PR 00968-8069

JUL 16 2015

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

**Article Number: 7009 2250 0000 9163 6239**

Noelia Y. Rosa Jaime  
Director  
Environmental Compliance and Planning Office  
Autonomous Municipality of San Juan  
P.O. Box 70179  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-8179

Re: Reconnaissance Inspection within the Autonomous Municipality of San Juan (MSJ), Puerto Rico  
Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) and Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer  
Authority (PRASA) Collection Systems.  
MSJ MS4 NPDES Permit PRR040036  
DTPW MS4 NPDES Permit PRR040080  
PRASA Puerto Nuevo Wastewater Treatment Plant Collection System NPDES Permit  
PR0021555

Dear Mrs. Rosa:

On July 6, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 2, Caribbean Environmental Protection Division (CEPD) inspector Alex O. Rivera of my staff conducted a reconnaissance inspection of the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) wastewater collection system and the Municipality of San Juan (MSJ) MS4 located in the José De Diego Street (PR-47) in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The inspection was conducted pursuant to the authority contained in Section 308 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., 40 CFR 122.41(a)(2), & (i) 1,2,3 and in accordance with Agency wide acceptable guidance and procedures. The findings are included in the Water Compliance Inspection Report enclosed. The results of the inspection performed by EPA found PRASA's and MSJ's collection system in non-compliance with their respective National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and in violation of the Clean Water Act.

Within forty five (45) days of receipt of this letter, respond to EPA-CEPD in writing with the actions that MSJ and PRASA has taken or will take to address the non-compliance items and other issues identified in the report. If the item has already been addressed also please note that in your response. However, if these items require extensive repairs and/or capital investments, then the work shall be scheduled in consideration of other priorities and the details shall also be informed to EPA.

Also send a copy of your response to Wanda E. García Hernández, Director, Water Quality Area, EQB, Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board, P.O. Box 11488, Santurce, Puerto Rico 00910

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Alex O. Rivera of my staff at 787-977-5845.

Sincerely,

Jaime Géliga  
Chief  
Municipal Water Program Branch  
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division

Enclosure

cc: Wanda E. García Hernández, Director, Water Quality Area, PREQB  
Emma Blanco, PRASA Metro Region Compliance (electronically via email)  
William Díaz, PRASA Metro Region Compliance (electronically via email)  
Héctor Cepeda, PRASA Metro Region Compliance (electronically via email)  
Yanira Cosme, PRASA Metro Region Operations (electronically via email)  
Christie Mota, PRASA Metro Region San Juan Area Operations (electronically via email)  
Juan Pérez, PRASA (via email)  
Alexander Avila, MSJ (via email)  
Aileen Amador, DTPW (via email)  
Jeannette Villamil, DTPW (via email)



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GUAYNABO, PR 00968-8069

JUL 16 2015

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

**Article Number: 7009 2250 0000 9163 6246**

Irma López  
Director  
Compliance and Quality Control Directorate  
Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority  
P.O. Box 7066  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00916-9990

Re: Reconnaissance Inspection within the Autonomous Municipality of San Juan (MSJ),  
Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) and Puerto Rico  
Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) Collection Systems.  
MSJ MS4 NPDES Permit PRR040036  
DTPW MS4 NPDES Permit PRR040080  
PRASA Puerto Nuevo Wastewater Treatment Plant Collection System NPDES Permit  
PR0021555

Dear Mrs. López:

On July 6, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 2,  
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division (CEPD) inspector Alex O. Rivera of my staff  
conducted a reconnaissance inspection of the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority  
(PRASA) wastewater collection system and the Municipality of San Juan (MSJ) MS4 located in  
the José De Diego Street (PR-47) in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The inspection was conducted pursuant to the authority contained in Section 308 of the Clean  
Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., 40 CFR 122.41(a)(2), & (i) 1,2,3 and in accordance with  
Agency wide acceptable guidance and procedures. The findings are included in the Water  
Compliance Inspection Report enclosed. The results of the inspection performed by EPA found  
PRASA's and MSJ's collection system in non-compliance with their respective National  
Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and in violation of the Clean Water  
Act.

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actions that MSJ and PRASA has taken or will take to address the non-compliance items and  
other issues identified in the report. If the item has already been addressed also please note that  
in your response. However, if these items require extensive repairs and/or capital investments,  
then the work shall be scheduled in consideration of other priorities and the details shall also be

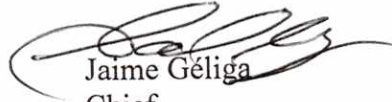


informed to EPA.

Also send a copy of your response to Wanda E. García Hernández, Director, Water Quality Area, EQB, Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board, P.O. Box 11488, Santurce, Puerto Rico 00910

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Alex O. Rivera of my staff at 787-977-5845.

Sincerely,



Jaime Géliga  
Chief  
Municipal Water Program Branch  
Caribbean Environmental Protection  
Division

Enclosure

cc: Wanda E. García Hernández, Director, Water Quality Area, PREQB  
Emma Blanco, PRASA Metro Region Compliance (via email)  
William Díaz, PRASA Metro Region Compliance (via email)  
Héctor Cepeda, PRASA Metro Region Compliance (via email)  
Yanira Cosme, PRASA Metro Region Operations (via email)  
Christie Mota, PRASA Metro Region San Juan Area Operations (via email)  
Juan Pérez, PRASA (via email)  
Alexander Avila, MSJ (via email)  
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CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION  
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#48 165 RD. KM 1.2  
GUAYNABO, PR 00968-8069

JUL 16 2015

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

**Article Number: 7009 2250 0000 9163 7182**

Hon. Miguel A. Torres, P.E.  
Secretary  
Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works  
P.O. Box 41269  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00940-1269

Re: Reconnaissance Inspection within the Autonomous Municipality of San Juan (MSJ),  
Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) and Puerto Rico  
Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) Collection Systems.  
MSJ MS4 NPDES Permit PRR040036  
DTPW MS4 NPDES Permit PRR040080  
PRASA Puerto Nuevo Wastewater Treatment Plant Collection System NPDES Permit  
PR0021555

Dear Eng. Torres:

On July 6, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 2, Caribbean Environmental Protection Division (CEPD) inspector Alex O. Rivera of my staff conducted a reconnaissance inspection of the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) wastewater collection system and the Municipality of San Juan (MSJ) MS4 located in the José De Diego Street (PR-47) in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The inspection was conducted pursuant to the authority contained in Section 308 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., 40 CFR 122.41(a)(2), & (i) 1,2,3 and in accordance with Agency wide acceptable guidance and procedures. The findings are included in the Water Compliance Inspection Report enclosed. The results of the inspection performed by EPA found PRASA's and MSJ's collection system in non-compliance with their respective National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and in violation of the Clean Water Act.

Within forty five (45) days of receipt of this letter, respond to EPA-CEPD in writing with the actions that MSJ and PRASA has taken or will take to address the non-compliance items and other issues identified in the report. If the item has already been addressed also please note that in your response. However, if these items require extensive repairs and/or capital investments, then the work shall be scheduled in consideration of other priorities and the details shall also be informed to EPA.

Also send a copy of your response to Wanda E. García Hernández, Director, Water Quality Area, EQB, Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board, P.O. Box 11488, Santurce, Puerto Rico 00910

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Alex O. Rivera of my staff at 787-977-5845.

Sincerely,



Jaime Géliga

Chief

Municipal Water Program Branch

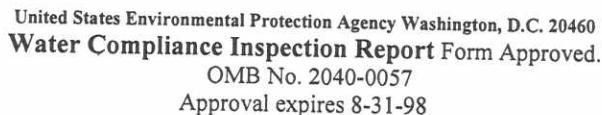
Caribbean Environmental Protection

Division

Enclosure

cc: Wanda E. García Hernández, Director, Water Quality Area, PREQB  
Emma Blanco, PRASA Metro Region Compliance (via email)  
William Díaz, PRASA Metro Region Compliance (via email)  
Héctor Cepeda, PRASA Metro Region Compliance (via email)  
Yanira Cosme, PRASA Metro Region Operations (via email)  
Christie Mota, PRASA Metro Region San Juan Area Operations (via email)  
Juan Pérez, PRASA (via email)  
Alexander Avila, MSJ (via email)  
Aileen Amador, DTPW (via email)  
Jeannette Villamil, DTPW (via email)





Transaction Code		NPDES										yr/mo/day						Inspection Type				Inspector		Fac Type				
1	N	2		3	P	R	R	0	4	0	0	3	6	11	12	1	5	0	7	0	6	17	18-19				R201	
Remarks																												
66																												
Inspection Work Days				Facility Self-Monitoring Evaluation Rating										B1		QA		Reserved										
67	.	0	2	69	70	U	71		72		73747580																	

<b>Section B: Facility Data</b>					
Name and Location of Facility Inspected (for industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number)			Entrv Time/Date Permit Effective Date 1:00 PM July 7, 2015		
Autonomous Municipality of San Juan (MSJ) MS4 (PRR040036) José De Diego Street (PR-47) Collection System			Exit Time/Date Permit Expiration Date 1:20 PM July 7, 2015		
Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s)  Alexander Ávila Sanchez Environmental Compliance Officer Environmental Compliance and Planning Office 787-480-2256 / <a href="mailto:aavila@sanjuanciudadpatia.com">aavila@sanjuanciudadpatia.com</a>			Other Facility Data – Other Responsible Officials		
Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number(s) Noelia Y. Rosa Jaime Director Municipality of San Juan Environmental Compliance and Planning Office 787-787-480-2253			Contacted Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

	Permit		Flow Measurement		Operations & Maintenance CSO/SSO (Sewer Overflow)
	Records/Reports		Self-Monitoring Program		Sludge Handling/Disposal Pollution Prevention
	Facility Site Review		Compliance Schedules		Pretreatment Multimedia
X	Effluent/Receiving Water		Laboratory	X	Storm Water

See Enclosed Report

See Enclosed Report

**EPA Form 3560-3 (Rev 9-94) Previous editions are obsolete**

## Section A: National Data System Coding (i.e., PCS)

Transaction Code		NPDES											yr/mo/day						Inspection Type				Inspector		Fac Type	
1	N	2		3	P	R	R	0	4	0	0	8	0	11	12	1	5	0	7	0	6	17	18-19R201			
Remarks																										
66																										
Inspection Work Days				Facility Self-Monitoring Evaluation Rating											B1		QA		Reserved							
67	.	0	2	69	70	U	71		72		73747580															

## Section B: Facility Data





Name and Location of Facility Inspected (for industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number)		Entry Time/Date    Permit Effective Date 1:00 PM July 6, 2015	
Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works MS4 (PRR040080) José De Diego Street (PR-47) Stormwater Collection System		Exit Time/Date    Permit Expiration Date 1:20 PM July 6, 2015	
Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s)  N/A		Other Facility Data – Other Responsible Officials	
Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number(s)  Hon. Miguel A. Torres, P.E., Secretary Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works			
Contacted <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes           <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         </div>			

## Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection (Check only those areas evaluated)

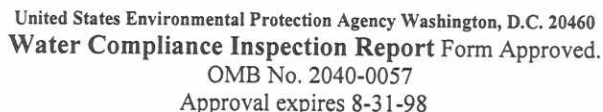
	Permit		Flow Measurement		Operations & Maintenance CSO/SSO (Sewer Overflow)
	Records/Reports		Self-Monitoring Program		Sludge Handling/Disposal Pollution Prevention
	Facility Site Review		Compliance Schedules		Pretreatment Multimedia
X	Effluent/Receiving Water		Laboratory	X	Storm Water

## Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments (Attach additional sheets of narrative and checklists as necessary)

See Enclosed Report

Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s)  Alex O. Rivera, Environmental Engineer	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers Date  U.S. EPA Region 2-CEPD - 787-977-5845 – <a href="mailto:rivera.alex@epa.gov">rivera.alex@epa.gov</a>
Signature of Management QA Reviewer  Jaime Geliga, Chief, CEPD-MWPB	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers Date  U.S. EPA Region 2, CEPD MWPB 787-977-5840 – <a href="mailto:geliga.jaime@epa.gov">geliga.jaime@epa.gov</a>





Transaction Code		NPDES										yr/mo/day										Inspection Type Inspector Fac Type												
1	N	2		3	P	R	0	0	2	1	5	5	5	11	12	1	5	0	7	0	6	17	18-19R201											
Remarks																																		
66																																		
Inspection Work Days										Facility Self-Monitoring Evaluation Rating										B1					QA					Reserved				
67	.	0	2	69	70										U	71		72		73747580														

Name and Location of Facility Inspected (for industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number) <b>PRASA Puerto Nuevo RWWTP Collection System (PR0021555)</b> <b>José De Diego Street (PR-47) Wastewater Collection System</b>		Entry Time/Date    Permit Effective Date <div>1:00 PM July 6, 2015</div>	
		Exit Time/Date    Permit Expiration Date <div>1:20 PM July 6, 2015</div>	
Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s)  N/A		Other Facility Data – Other Responsible Officials	
Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number(s) Roberto Martínez Director PRASA Metro Region 939-292-6690		Contacted <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes           <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         </div>	

	Permit	Flow Measurement	X	Operations & Maintenance CSO/SSO (Sewer Overflow)
	Records/Reports	Self-Monitoring Program		Sludge Handling/Disposal Pollution Prevention
	Facility Site Review	Compliance Schedules		Pretreatment Multimedia
	Effluent/Receiving Water	Laboratory		Storm Water

See Enclosed Report

See Enclosed Report

Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers Date 7/16/15  
U.S. EPA Region 2-CEPD - 787-977-5845 – rivera.alex@epa.gov

Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers Date 7/16/15  
U.S. EPA Region 2, CEPD MWBP  
787-977-5840 – geliga.jaime@epa.gov

**SUPPLEMENT TO WATER COMPLIANCE INSPECTION REPORT FORM  
(EPA FORM 3560-3 (REV 9-94))**

**JOSE DE DIEGO STREET (PR-47) STORM WATER AND  
WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEMS**

Reconnaissance Inspection: Autonomous Municipality of San Juan (MSJ) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)  
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit PRR040036  
  
Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) MS4 NPDES Permit PRR040080  
  
Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) Puerto Nuevo Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (RWWTP) NPDES Permit PR0021555

Location Address: José De Diego Street (PR-47), San Juan, Puerto Rico  
Coordinates: Lat. 18° 23' 53.48" N – Long. 66° 02' 31.06" W

Inspection Date: July 6, 2015

Inspector: Alex O. Rivera, Environmental Engineer  
USEPA Region 2  
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division  
Municipal Water Program Branch  
(787) 977-5845 / [rivera.alex@epa.gov](mailto:rivera.alex@epa.gov)

MSJ Representative: Alexander Ávila Sanchez  
Environmental Compliance Officer  
Environmental Compliance and Planning Office  
787-480-2256 / [aavila@sanjuanciudadpatria.com](mailto:aavila@sanjuanciudadpatria.com)

**I. Background and inspection purpose:**

On July 6, 2015, Alex O. Rivera of EPA Region 2 (Inspector) conducted a reconnaissance inspection (RI) at Jose De Diego Street (PR-47) in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The inspection was performed as a follow-up to previous EPA RI's, where significant amount of dry-weather flow with wastewater characteristics were found reaching the Juan Méndez Creek from a stormwater outfall located in Jose De Diego Street (PR 47). The dates and additional details of such EPA RI's are included in **Section III** and **Attachment III** of this report.

The Juan Méndez Creek is a tributary of the Los Corozos Lagoon. Los Corozos Lagoon is part of the San Juan Bay Estuary and a tributary of the Atlantic Ocean.



José De Diego Street storm water collection system is part of MSJ's and DTPW's MS4 and its wastewater collection system is part of PRASA's Puerto Nuevo RWWTP collection system. MSJ was represented by Alexander Ávila, Environmental Compliance Officer. PRASA was not represented during the inspection. The inspection was performed pursuant to the authority in Section 308(a) of the CWA. The inspection took place from approximately 1:00 p.m. to 1:20 p.m., local time. Dry weather and clear skies prevailed during the inspection. All photos related to the items above were taken using a Nikon Coolpix P510 Digital Camera. Photos DSCN2297 to DSCN2299 were taken and included in **Attachment I** of this document.

## **II. Inspection Findings and Observations:**

The findings and observations of the RI are included below:

1. Strong wastewater odor and other wastewater characteristics (e.g. color, solids, and algae formation) were observed in the Juan Méndez Creek from the José De Diego Street Bridge that crosses the creek. For more details refer to photo DSCN2297 located in **Attachment I** of this report. Coordinates: Lat. 18° 23' 53.33" N – Long. 66° 2' 31.30" W.
2. A steady and moderate dry-weather flow with wastewater appearance (e.g., odor, color, algae) was observed being discharged thru an approximately 30 inch diameter pipe located at the west side of the Juan Méndez Creek and the José De Diego (PR-47) bridge.
3. PRASA and MSJ were notified about the inspection findings via email on July 7, 2015, the email can be found in **Attachment II** of this report.

## **III. EPA Previous Reconnaissance Inspections**

As stated Section I of this report, EPA had previously documented the situation described in this report. The following is a list of some of the dates were EPA documented the same dry-weather discharges with wastewater characteristics:

1. November 23, 2011
2. December 1, 2011
3. February 16, 2012 – Included in EPA February 16, 2012 Reconnaissance Inspection Report, which covered several outfalls along the Juan Mendez Creek and several points within the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) Baldorioty de Castro drainage area. The Report was submitted to both PRASA and MSJ.
4. March 13, 2012
5. April 23, 2012 – Included in EPA April 23 and 24, 2012 Reconnaissance Inspection Report, which was conducted in portions of the San Antón Creek, the Rio Piedras River, the Juan Méndez Creek, the Puerto Nuevo Channel and the Doña Ana Creek. The Report was submitted to both PRASA and MSJ.
6. May 9, 2012



7. June 13, 2012
8. July 17, 2012 – Included in EPA July 16, 17, and 18, 2012 Reconnaissance Inspection with Sampling Report, which was conducted in portions of the Doña Ana Creek, the Rio Piedras River, the Juan Méndez Creek, the Puerto Nuevo Channel, the San Antón and Sabana Llana Creeks. The Report was submitted to PRASA, DTPW, and MSJ.
9. December 2, 2014 – Documented as part of a joint inspection between PRASA and EPA to follow-up with the areas of concern identified within PRASA Puerto Nuevo RWWTP Collection System.
10. February 18, 2015


The photos taken at each inspection documenting the discharge and condition of the creek are included in **Attachment III** of this report.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

Wastewater is a pollutant as defined by Section 502(6) of the Clean Water Act (Act), 33 U.S.C. § 1362. The Juan Méndez Creek is considered Waters of the United States as defined by the Act. José De Diego Street MS4 and PRASA's Wastewater Collection Systems are point sources as defined by the Act. José De Diego Street Storm Water Collection System is an appurtenance of the MSJ and is a point source as defined by the Act. José De Diego Wastewater Collection System is an appurtenance of PRASA and is a point source as defined by the Act. José De Diego Street Wastewater Collection System discharge by gravity wastewater into MSJs MS4. MSJ and PRASA does not have an NPDES permit to discharge the pollutants (e.g. sewage, wastewater solids) that were observed in the Juan Méndez Creek.

MSJ and PRASA shall take the necessary actions to cease discharging wastewaters into Waters of the United States. The response to this report shall include all the details, evidence, and results of such actions.

Report prepared by:

  
Eng. Alex O. Rivera  
Environmental Engineer

Dated:

7/16/15

**Attachment I – Photo Log and Location Map**

**Attachment II – EPA July 7, 2015 email notifying PRASA and MSJ about the wastewater discharges reaching the Juan Méndez Creek**

**Attachment III – EPA Previous Reconnaissance Inspections at José De Diego Street (PR-47), Juan Méndez Creek Bridge Photos**

## Attachment I

EPA 7-6-2015 Jose De Diego Street (PR-47)  
Stormwater Collection System (MSJ) RI-3560

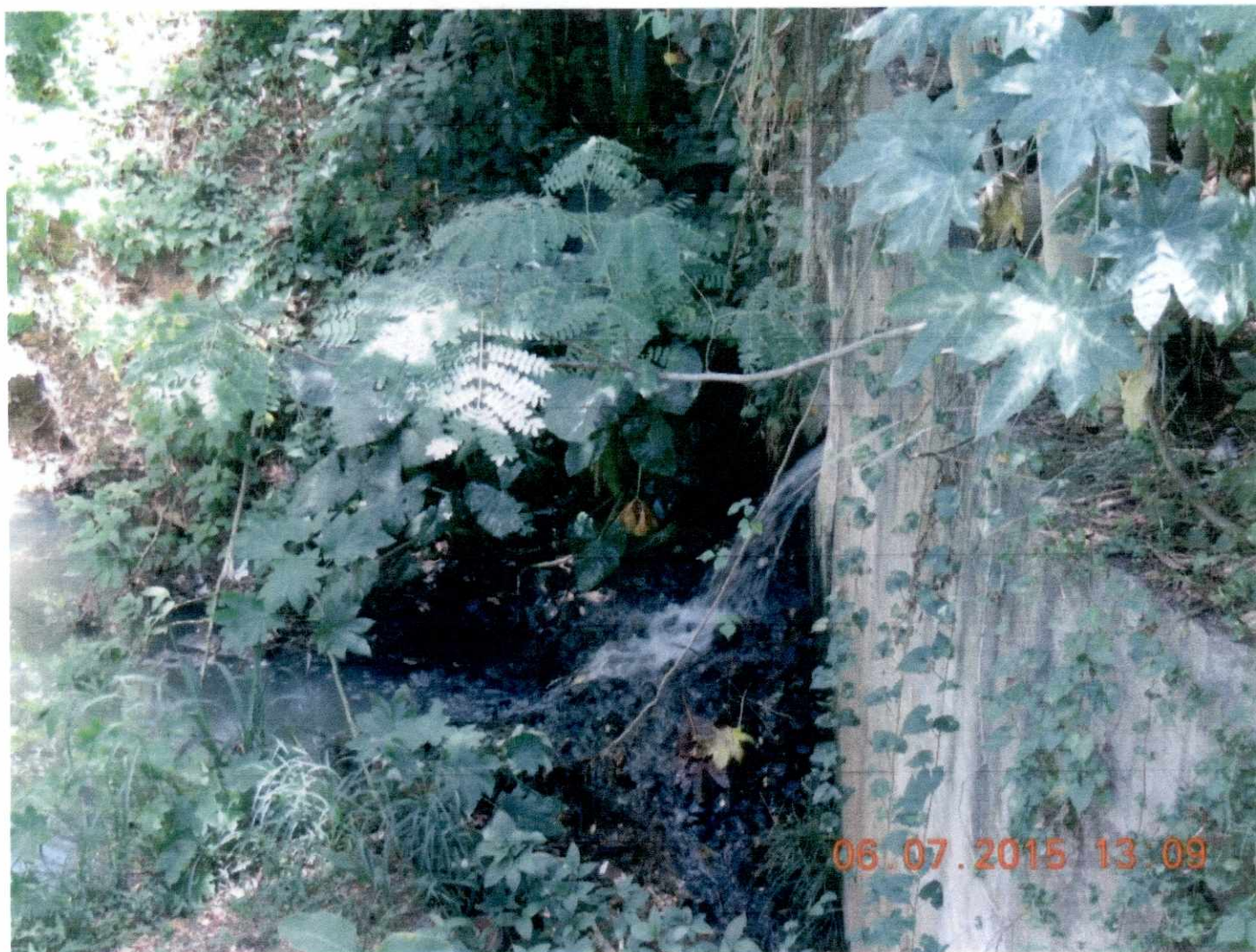
**Attachment I:** EPA July 6, 2015 Reconnaissance Inspection at Jose De Diego Street, Juan Méndez Creek Bridge - Photo Log and Location Map



**DSCN2297** – Partial view of the Juan Méndez Creek and the approximately 30 inch diameter pipe discharging dry-weather flow with wastewater characteristics (odor, color, algae formation) located in the southwest part of the José De Diego Street Bridge that crosses the Juan Méndez Creek.



**Attachment I:** EPA July 6, 2015 Reconnaissance Inspection at Jose De Diego Street, Juan Méndez Creek Bridge - Photo Log and Location Map



**DSCN2298** – Partial view of the approximately 30 inch diameter pipe discharging dry-weather flow with wastewater characteristics (odor, color, algae formation) located in the southwest part of the José De Diego Street Bridge that crosses the Juan Méndez Creek.



**Attachment I:** EPA July 6, 2015 Reconnaissance Inspection at Jose De Diego Street, Juan Méndez Creek Bridge - Photo Log and Location Map



**DSCN2299** – Additional view of the Juan Méndez Creek viewed from the José De Diego Street Bridge. Significant amounts of dry-weather flow with wastewater characteristics (odor, color, algae formation) were observed reaching the creek.



**Attachment I: EPA July 6, 2015 Reconnaissance Inspection at Jose De Diego Street, Juan Méndez Creek Bridge - Photo Log and Location Map**



Source: Puerto Rico Planning Board GIS Application ([http://gis.otg.pr.gov/apps/pr\\_map/](http://gis.otg.pr.gov/apps/pr_map/))



## Attachment II

EPA Email to PRASA and MSJ about wastewater discharges reaching the Juan Mendez Creek

**Rivera, Alex**

---

**From:** Rivera, Alex  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 07, 2015 4:13 PM  
**To:** 'Christie.MOTA@acueductospr.com'; 'Emma.BLANCO@acueductospr.com';  
'William.DIAZ@acueductospr.com'; 'Yanira.COSME@acueductospr.com';  
'Hector.CEPEDA@acueductospr.com'  
**Cc:** roberto.martinez@acueductospr.com; Juan.PEREZ@acueductospr.com; 'Alexander  
Avila Sánchez'; Noelia Y. Rosa Jaime; Lantner, Murray; Geliga, Jaime;  
<rmorales@estuario.org>; 'Omar Pérez'; Feliberty Ruiz, Annette;  
Juan.PEREZ@acueductospr.com; Patricia.McKenna@USDOJ.GOV  
**Subject:** Wastewater Discharges into Juan Mendez Creek - De Diego Street (PR-47) Bridge  
Rio Piedras  
**Attachments:** DSCN2297 (1024x768).jpg; DSCN2298 (1024x768).jpg; DSCN2299 (1024x768).jpg

Hi to all:

Yesterday we conducted a follow-up visit, along with MSJ's Alexander Avila, at the De Diego Street (PR-47) in the area of the Juan Méndez Creek Bridge and found significant amount of dry-weather flow with wastewater characteristics reaching the creek (see photos attached). The color and odor was evidently wastewater related. EPA had been referring this situation since years now and the problem is still outstanding. We requesting PRASA to conduct frequent visits to this area to monitor the discharges as part of the "Areas of Concern" approach, but the collection system upwards needs to be evaluated to determine the source in order to be successful on reducing the discharge and eventually eliminating it.

We need PRASA and MSJ to investigate and evaluate their systems in the area to determine the source and eliminate the discharge of pollutants into the Juan Mendez Creek in compliance with their respective NPDES permits. Please keep EPA informed about the actions that are going to be taken and the results.

Thanks;

Alex O. Rivera  
Environmental Engineer  
U.S. EPA Region 2  
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division  
City View Plaza II – Suite 7000  
48 Road 165 Km. 1.2  
Guaynabo, P.R. 00968-8073  
787-977-5845





## Attachment III

EPA Previous RIs at Jose De Diego - Juan  
Mendez Creek Bridge Photo Log

**Attachment III:** EPA Previous Reconnaissance Inspections at Jose De Diego Street (PR-47), Juan Méndez Creek Bridge Photos

**November 23, 2011**



**IMG\_2344** – Photo taken on November 23, 2011 by EPA Inspector Alex O. Rivera. Partial view of the Juan Méndez Creek and the approximately 30 inch diameter pipe discharging dry-weather flow with wastewater characteristics (odor, color, algae formation) located in the southwest part of the José De Diego Street Bridge that crosses the Juan Méndez Creek.



**Attachment III: EPA Previous Reconnaissance Inspections at Jose De Diego Street (PR-47), Juan Méndez Creek Bridge Photos**

**December 1, 2011**



**IMG\_2400** – Photo taken on December 1, 2011 by EPA Inspector Alex O. Rivera. Additional view of the approximately 30 inch diameter pipe discharging dry-weather flow with wastewater characteristics (odor, color, algae formation) located in the southwest part of the José De Diego Street Bridge that crosses the Juan Méndez Creek.



**February 16, 2012**



**IMG\_2638** – Photo taken on February 16, 2012 by EPA Inspector Alex O. Rivera. Additional view of the Juan Méndez Creek viewed from the José De Diego Street Bridge. Significant amounts of dry-weather flow with wastewater characteristics (odor, color, algae formation) were observed reaching the creek.



**Attachment III: EPA Previous Reconnaissance Inspections at Jose De Diego Street (PR-47), Juan Méndez Creek Bridge Photos**

**March 13, 2012**



**IMG\_2703** – Photo taken on March 13, 2012 by EPA Inspector Alex O. Rivera. Additional view of the Juan Méndez Creek viewed from the José De Diego Street Bridge. Significant amounts of dry-weather flow with wastewater characteristics (odor, color, algae formation) were observed reaching the creek.



**Attachment III: EPA Previous Reconnaissance Inspections at Jose De Diego Street (PR-47), Juan Méndez Creek Bridge Photos**

**April 23, 2012**



**IMG\_2908** – Photo taken on April 23, 2012 by EPA Inspector Alex O. Rivera. Additional view of the Juan Méndez Creek viewed from the José De Diego Street Bridge. Significant amounts of dry-weather flow with wastewater characteristics (odor, color, algae formation) were observed reaching the creek.



**Attachment III: EPA Previous Reconnaissance Inspections at Jose De Diego Street (PR-47), Juan Méndez Creek Bridge Photos**

**May 9, 2012**



**IMG\_2990** – Photo taken on May 9, 2012 by EPA Inspector Alex O. Rivera. Additional view of the Juan Méndez Creek viewed from the José De Diego Street Bridge. Significant amounts of dry-weather flow with wastewater characteristics (odor, color, algae formation) were observed reaching the creek.



**Attachment III:** EPA Previous Reconnaissance Inspections at Jose De Diego Street (PR-47), Juan Méndez Creek Bridge Photos

**June 13, 2012**



**IMG\_3366** – Photo taken on June 13, 2012 by EPA Inspector Alex O. Rivera. Additional view of the Juan Méndez Creek viewed from the José De Diego Street Bridge. Significant amounts of dry-weather flow with wastewater characteristics (odor, color, algae formation) were observed reaching the creek.



**Attachment III: EPA Previous Reconnaissance Inspections at Jose De Diego Street (PR-47), Juan Méndez Creek Bridge Photos**

**July 17, 2012**



**IMG\_3609** – Photo taken on July 17, 2012 by EPA Inspector Alex O. Rivera. Additional view of the Juan Méndez Creek viewed from the José De Diego Street Bridge. Significant amounts of dry-weather flow with wastewater characteristics (odor, color, algae formation) were observed reaching the creek.



**Attachment III: EPA Previous Reconnaissance Inspections at Jose De Diego Street (PR-47), Juan Méndez Creek Bridge Photos**

**December 2, 2014**

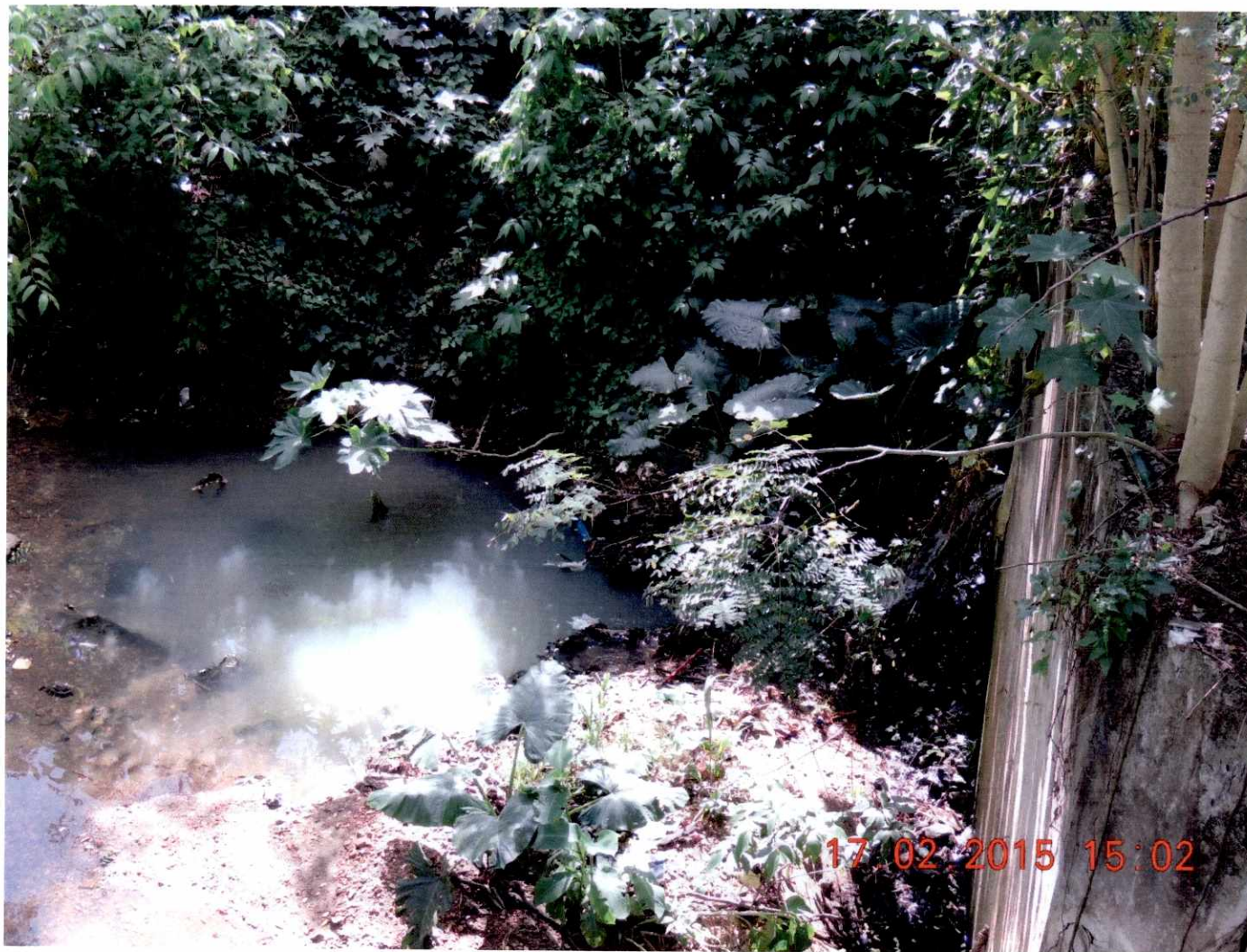


**DSCN1294** – Photo taken on December 2, 2014 by EPA Inspector Alex O. Rivera. Additional view of the Juan Méndez Creek viewed from the José De Diego Street Bridge. Significant amounts of dry-weather flow with wastewater characteristics (odor, color, algae formation) were observed reaching the creek.



**Attachment III: EPA Previous Reconnaissance Inspections at Jose De Diego Street (PR-47), Juan Méndez Creek Bridge Photos**

**February 18, 2014**



**DSCN1842** – Photo taken on February 18, 2014 by EPA Inspector Alex O. Rivera. Additional view of the Juan Méndez Creek viewed from the José De Diego Street Bridge. Significant amounts of dry-weather flow with wastewater characteristics (odor, color, algae formation) were observed reaching the creek.